



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 24, 2014

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**Public Comment Sought on Draft EA for
Milltown State Park Forest Health Improvement and Trail Development**

-Comments due by Friday, November 28 at 5pm-

(Missoula, MT) – Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) announced today that it is seeking public comment on a draft Environmental Assessment for Milltown State Park Forest Health Improvement and Trail Development. Public comments will be accepted through Friday, November 28 at 5pm.

The draft EA proposes a forest management project to improve forest health in the upland area surrounding the Milltown State Park Overlook. This project includes thinning trees 6-inches in diameter and smaller, and removal of all beetle-infested trees in order to benefit larger ponderosa pine trees, larch and aspen.

Additionally, the project proposes construction of an interpretive trail on the south side of the restored Clark Fork River floodplain, which would connect to the Overlook and continue west to the Bandmann Flats area. Trail construction would include interpretive signage, an informational kiosk, and a vault latrine at the Overlook.

The proposed action would enhance public safety, forest aesthetics, and wildlife habitat, and increase recreational opportunities for park visitors.

The cost of the forest improvement is \$24,000 and will be funded by a \$12,000 grant award from the Western Bark Beetle Prevention, Suppression, and Restoration Grant Program managed by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; and \$12,000 in grant match funds from Montana State Parks. Cost of the trails project is \$50,000 and is provided by the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program.

The public can view the draft EA online at:

http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0035.html

The public is invited to comment on the Milltown Forest Improvement draft EA. Public comments must be received by Friday, November 28 at 5pm.

Send comments online at stateparks.mt.gov and click “submit comments” or by direct link here:
http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0035.html

Send comments by email to MilltownEA@mt.gov. Or by regular mail to: Milltown EA Comments c/o FWP Region 2, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804.

For questions about the Milltown draft EA and/or the public comment process, contact Michael Kustudia, Milltown State Park Manager at (406) 542-5533 or MKustudia@mt.gov.

For directions and more information about Milltown State Park visit:
<http://stateparks.mt.gov/milltown/>

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